Authority to ensure their commissioning in time. The reviews are also being taken at regional level.

Power shortage in Maharashtra

4214. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than eight lakh small-scale businesses scattered in Maharashtra, employing around 20.5 lakh people, are facing acute power outages, thereby resulting in shorter working hours for workers and unremunerative return on capital investments of units below Rs. 5 crores; and

(b) if so, by when power-generation capacity would be increased and just distribution assured to small-scale industries and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Maharashtra faced energy shortage of the order of 24.9% (2698 million units) and peaking shortage of 30.8% (5716 MW) during the month of April, 2007. No specific information is available regarding shorter working hours for workers and unremunerative return on capital investment of units below Rs. 5 crores due to shortage of power.

(b) As per the 11th Plan capacity addition programme approved by Working Group on Power, 4,500 MW capacity is proposed to be commissioned in the state sector in Maharashtra in the 11th Plan. Further, the State will get its entitled share from central sector generation projects in the country subject to signing of power purchase agreement.

The supply and distribution of electricity to the ultimate consumers including small scale industries and marginal farmers in the State is the responsibility of concerned State Government/state power utility. The Government of India on its part is implementing Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for strengthening/ augmentation of sub-transmission and distribution system in States and thirty four schemes with an outlay of Rs. 1643.12 crores have been approved for implementation in Maharashtra.